

#### DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU 111 S. George Mason Dr Arlington, VA 22204

NGB-ARM 01 December 2004

#### MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: FY05 Army National Guard Education Programs (Policy Number, 05-01) 01 January 2005 – 30 September 2005. Full implementation of this policy is required no later than January 1, 2005.

#### 1. REFERENCES.

- a. United States Code (USC), Section 2007, Payment of Tuition for Off-Duty Training or Education.
- b. Department of Defense Directive 1322.8, Voluntary Education Programs for Military Personnel.
- c. Department of Defense Instruction 1322.25, Voluntary Education Programs for Military Personnel.
  - d. AR 621-5, Feb 2004, Subject: Army Continuing Education System.
- 2. PURPOSE. To improve the strength and readiness of the Army National Guard by supporting the voluntary civilian education needs of ARNG through professional marketing, counseling, and administrative practices.
- a. This memorandum establishes policy to administer some of the ARNG Education Programs unless sooner rescinded or superceded. This includes ARNG Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA), Testing programs, Certification Programs, MDEP VACE funds, and various education support programs such as the ARNG Education Support Center (ESC), the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), the Service-members Opportunity Colleges (SOC), and Army/American Council of Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS).
- b. The G.I. Bill Programs and Student Loan Repayment programs (SLRP & HPLR) are covered under separate respective policies.

- 3. IMPLEMENTATION. This policy should be considered the primary source for implementing ARNG education programs. Full implementation of this policy is required by each state. Education Services Officers (ESOs) will follow this policy and subsequent directives from National Guard Bureau (NGB-ARM) to implement the ARNG Education Programs. The ARNG Education Program is developed based on US Code, DOD instructions/directives the Army Continuing Education System (ACES), and guidance provided in AR 621-5.
- 4. ARNG FTA OVERVIEW. Financial assistance through ARNG FTA will be provided for education programs in support of a soldier's professional or personal selfdevelopment goals per the following guidance.

## a. Eligibility.

- (1) ARNG Traditional Soldiers. ARNG traditional soldiers in an active drilling status are eligible to receive ARNG FTA. Soldiers who receive 9 or more AWOLs/UNSAT's in the previous 12 months, at time of ARNG FTA application processing, are not "satisfactory participants".
- (2) ARNG AGR Soldiers. ARNG AGR soldiers (Title 10/32) are not eligible to receive ARNG FTA. AGR soldiers are eligible for TA through their servicing active component Army Education Center, see <a href="https://www.armyeducation.army.mil#">https://www.armyeducation.army.mil#</a>. Enlisted AGR members qualify for the active Army's eArmyU program. Contact the eArmyU help desk at 1-800-817-9990 or go to <a href="https://www.earmyu.com">www.earmyu.com</a>.
- (3) ARNG civilian employees. ARNG civilian employees (Federal or State) are not eligible to receive ARNG FTA.
- (4) Mobilized / active duty ARNG enlisted. Enlisted ARNG members who are on active duty for the entire length of the course are not eligible for ARNG FTA and must instead seek TA funding through their active Army Education servicing center, see <a href="https://www.armyeducation.army.mil#">https://www.armyeducation.army.mil#</a> for POCs. ARNG enlisted members who are on active duty (other than ADSW/ADT/AT) are not authorized ARNG FTA unless they meet the following exceptions;
- (a) Course start/end dates occur outside respective "active duty" orders. For example, ARNG member is enrolled in school and ARNG FTA has already been authorized for the current courses and member is subsequently mobilized or called to active duty, (member elects to remain in classes) then ARNG may pay for that course, but not follow-on courses while mobilized or on active duty. Another example, If a mobilized ARNG member enrolls in courses, but ACES denies active Army TA because enlisted member does not have sufficient active duty service obligation remaining prior

to course end date. Although, applicant must have sufficient service obligation remaining in the ARNG.

- (b) All other cases require NGB-ARM (Education) approval via exception to policy request.
- (5) Mobilized / active duty officers/warrants. ARNG commissioned officers and commissioned warrant officers who are on active duty (other than AGR) are eligible to receive ARNG FTA, if they do not qualify for active Army Continuation Education Service (ACES) TA due to the required 2-year active duty service obligation incurred (from course end date) for using active component Army TA.
- b. Authorized Uses/Accreditation. ARNG FTA will only be used to pay for courses offered by institutions that are accredited or that have been approved as a candidate for accreditation by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). For non-degree bearing programs, secondary school accreditation or specialized accreditation (professional/occupational) is required. This requirement is applicable to classroom study, vocational/technical training and distance learning (DL) courses.
- (1) ESOs will determine which colleges/universities are accredited per the US Department of Education.
- (2) To determine which colleges/universities are accredited, ESOs will use the Accredited Institutions of Post Secondary Education Guide which is published in consultation with the American Council on Education (ACE) or the Directory of Accrediting Agencies. The guides are distributed annually by DANTES to each State ESO. The guides are also available from DANTES at <a href="http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\_web/distribution/restricted.htm">http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\_web/distribution/refs.htm#DAA</a>.
- (3) A sample listing of accredited DL courses can be found by reviewing the DANTES Independent Study Catalog, DANTES External Degree Catalog, or the DANTES Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs Catalog which are distributed annually to each State ESO by DANTES. The catalogs are also available on line at the DANTES Web site at: http://www.voled.doded.mil
- (4) Other sources of accreditation information are either the US Dept of Education's website at <a href="http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html">http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html</a> or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation website at <a href="http://www.chea.org/">http://www.chea.org/</a> or NGB's support contract agency, SOCGuard at 1-800-368-5622 / <a href="mailto:shapirom@aascu.org">shapirom@aascu.org</a> as they are the lead agents for helping ARNG ESO's with accreditation issues.

- (5) A sample listing of schools that are **not accredited** can be found at <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Non-accreditedSchools\_78090\_7.pdf">http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Non-accreditedSchools\_78090\_7.pdf</a> or at <a href="http://www.osac.state.or.us/oda/accreditation.html">http://www.osac.state.or.us/oda/accreditation.html</a>.
- c. Authorized Levels. ARNG FTA may be used for alternate delivery courses and credit-by-examinations from a college or university if they support the applicant's goals and meet accreditation requirements. (See paragraph 8 b. for additional testing programs). Soldiers may use ARNG FTA to receive one degree/credential from each of the following levels, but may not be used for lower or lateral degrees except for; obtaining a certification / licensing, or recertification, or if the prior degree/credential was obtained without ARNG FTA funding.
  - (1) Secondary School Diploma or its equivalency
  - (2) Certificate (undergraduate, graduate, vocational, technical, licensure)
  - (3) Associate
  - (4) Baccalaureate
  - (5) Master's or First Professional

Note. Only soldiers who have not obtained a master degree are eligible to use ARNG FTA for a first professional degree. Examples of first professional degrees include Architecture, Certified Public Accountant, Podiatry (D.P.M.), Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D), Medicine (M.D.), Optometry (O.D.), Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.), Pharmacy (D. Phar.), Law (J.D.), and Theology (M.Div or M.H.L.).

- d. Authorized Rates. The following ARNG FTA rates are authorized for FY05.
- (1) The total amount of ARNG FTA (including all fees) each soldier is entitled to receive during FY05 will not exceed \$4,500.
- (2) 100% tuition with limitations of \$250 per semester hour (SH) or \$167 per quarter hour (QH) or \$16.66 per clock hour (CH) for tuition.
- (3) 100% of the costs associated with obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent to include tuition, books, and related fees.

NOTE: Fees are only those fees charged by the institution that are a requirement to 'all students' for enrollment or matriculation purposes or are directly related to the instruction of the course for which ARNG FTA is being provided. ARNG FTA will not be used for the purchase of textbooks unless they are included in the institution's published tuition rate.

NOTE: Conversions - Clock Hours (CH) and Quarter Hours (QH). To fund a course according to CHs, ESOs must convert CHs to SHs by dividing the total number of CHs by 15 to determine the number of SHs and then dividing the cost of the course by the number of SHs to determine the cost per SH. For example, a Microsoft Office Training Course offered by an accredited institution that costs \$1,800 and meets for 120 CHs would equal 8 SH (120/15) and cost \$225 per SH (1800/8). QHs must also be converted. QH to SH conversion = divide QH by .6667, CH to SH conversion = divide by 15.

e. Goal Declaration. ARNG soldiers must declare an educational goal (i.e. degree, credential, certification or licensure) before ARNG FTA can be approved. After completing nine semester hours (or equivalent) of coursework with one academic institution, soldiers must submit a documented degree/credential plan outlining the requirements to meet their educational goal, in order to qualify for additional FTA. If desired, the ARNG ESC provides such services to facilitate these plans.

## 5. ARNG FTA ADMINISTRATION.

# a. Program Overview.

- (1) The ARNG FTA Program is generally an 'up front' TA program. Under this program, either the State FTA Manager or the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), through respective State USP&FO, makes a payment directly to the college/institution for the ARNG's portion of the soldier's education expenses. ESOs will establish an 'up front' payment system with the financial aid personnel at their colleges/universities in order to prevent soldiers from having to pay tuition costs on their own and receiving reimbursement later. Due to unique needs of a State, an approved exception to policy may be granted for either the entire State program (must renew annually) or for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis, States may be authorized by NGB to directly reimburse the soldier. These exceptions to policy must be approved by NGB's Education Office (ARNG). Cases of direct reimbursement will be annotated in the comment section of application within Information Management and Reporting Center (iMARC).
- (2) ARNG members are required to utilize the ARNG Federal TA online application process available at <a href="www.virtualarmory.com">www.virtualarmory.com</a> under the "education" tab, when applying for ARNG FTA. Applicants can only apply for FTA 90 days prior to start of a course and through course late registration period. Use of this automated online application process allows applicants to apply for FTA and the application is electronically routed to the respective host State, in which the State ARNG FTA manager "receives" the application electronically and it is initially held as a "pending" status. The FTA manager then determines the validity of the application, status of

applicant, school accreditation, applicant's goals/previous history, and based upon funding available, either approves or denies the application. This initial approval is a "commitment" of FTA funds pending receipt of an official invoice or bill to validate the expense. Applicants at this point are responsible to report any changes in courses such as adds/drops or withdrawal, etc. Upon receipt of an official invoice or bill and verification/reconciliation, the application is then considered an "obligation" of FTA funds and the ARNG processes the application along with the official invoice for payment.

- (3) When the applicant applies for ARNG FTA using the automated online process, the application is not required to be signed by the applicant nor is there a requirement for the applicant to submit a signed Statement of Understanding (SOU). The online application will suffice as an "electronic signature" for these items. The ESO or FTA manager will not route the application through the applicant's unit for commander's signature, but instead will verify satisfactory status by other means, such as iMARC / SIDPERS verification or email confirmation with unit representative. The ESO or FTA manager may act on the unit commander's behalf in verifying satisfactory status.
- (4) Course start date will determine which FY funds are obligated; i.e. Course start date of 15 Sep 03 will obligate funds from FY03. A course start date of 15 Oct 03 will obligate funds from FY04. FY funds must be used only for expenses incurred in respective FY; i.e. Based upon course start date
- (5) Prior to any commitment, obligation, or disbursement of ARNG FTA funds, each application must be reflected in the Information Management and Reporting Center (iMARC) database as such. iMARC is to be considered the database of record for all ARNG FTA transaction processing. ARNG State FTA managers are responsible to manage their respective FTA budgets though diligent and meticulous record keeping procedures. ARNG FTA managers are responsible to monitor iMARC's TA management tab for incoming FTA applications and provide timely processing.
- (6) ARNG Federal TA managers are responsible for verifying applicants' course completion status by receipt of a valid completion document; i.e. transcript, grade report, degree plan, or school notification, etc. Confirmation of this completion must be indicated in iMARC, for record keeping and accounting purposes. ARNG FTA is not authorized for subsequent courses that were previously funded by ARNG FTA; i.e. failures or withdrawals, unless there are extenuating circumstances due to no fault of the applicant.
- (7) States that were members of the ARNG centralized FTA consortium with DANTES in any of the FY's 2001-2004, must continue to reconcile their commitments, obligations, disbursements, as well as credits or recoupments. DANTES will continue to

process for payment applications for those specific time periods in which a State was part of this consortium and provide monthly data for State reconciliations.

- **b.** Additional Sources of Funding. State FTA managers are, in essence, fiscal agents of the US government and responsible to ensure applicants are not receiving duplication of federal funds in contradiction of US law and per NGB guidance. Soldiers may use ARNG FTA in addition to other funding sources (i.e. Pell Grants, GI Bill programs, Loan programs, State-funded programs, etc) to fund their educational expenses based on the following limitations:
- (1) State-funded programs have no relevance on ARNG Federal TA. State-funded programs should not be a factor in determining ARNG Federal TA, pending any State laws or directives. ARNG FTA and State-funded programs may be used simultaneously, unless respective State law directs otherwise.
- (2) ARNG FTA, Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) basic benefit, and MGIB Kicker incentive may be combined when the applicant's enrollment status in the school is at least "Half (1/2) Time" or more. ARNG FTA and the MGIB-SR or Kicker may be combined and exceed 100 percent of tuition costs.
- (3) Traditional drilling soldiers that are eligible for both ARNG Federal TA and Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD) may receive both simultaneously. This may exceed 100 percent of tuition costs provided they are not receiving funds for a MGIB Kicker. Soldiers eligible to receive the MGIB-AD, VEAP or DEA who are receiving MGIB Kicker benefits may only use ARNG FTA for course(s) that are beyond what is considered fulltime enrollment by the school.
- (4) In the case where an applicant is eligible for both ARNG Federal TA and a Pell Grant, ARNG FTA will be applied first to allow maximum use of Pell Grant funds.
- (5) In the case where an applicant is receiving ROTC scholarship funding under USC 2107 or USC 2107a, these applicants are not entitled to ARNG FTA.

## c. Service Commitment.

- (1) Enlisted soldiers and WO1 (Jr. warrant officers) must serve in an active drilling status through the end date of the course unless involuntary separated with an honorable discharge or will be subject to full recoupment.
- (2) Commissioned officers and commissioned warrant officers must serve at least 4 years of Selected Reserve service remaining from the date of completion of the course for which ARNG FTA is provided; per US Code, otherwise recoupment will be initiated on a prorated basis.

- d. Forms. The following forms will be used for the administration of ARNG FTA.
- (1) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) College. ESOs are encouraged to develop an MOU with each of the local schools in which applicants apply for and receive ARNG FTA. The MOU will outline the ESOs' and the Schools' responsibilities regarding enrollment/disenrollment notification, duplicate federal funding, student grades, payment procedures, etc. In addition, ESOs will develop working relationships with the educational institutions that receive ARNG FTA, i.e. Admission Counselors, Financial Aid Counselors, and Department of Veterans Affairs representatives. The ARNG support agency, SOCGuard will provide assistance in establishing MOUs.
- (2) Statement of Understanding (SOU) Soldier. Prior to any commitment of funds, the ESO will ensure the soldier understands his/her responsibilities regarding ARNG FTA as well as the restrictions regarding the duplication of federal funding. When the member applies for ARNG FTA through the virtual armory online process, he/she must indicate concurrence with SOU as posted in the application process; thus, this suffices for SOU purposes as it is date/time stamped in the application process based upon that member's login.
- (3) DA Form 2171-ARNG. The DA Form 2171-ARNG (ARNG version of DA Form 2171 generated by automated application), Request for Tuition Assistance Army National Guard is the only form authorized for the administration of the ARNG FTA program. ESOs will only approve requests that are received prior to the end of the course late registration period, but not earlier than 90 days prior to the course start date. In addition, each application must include a control number using the following format "T" indicating Tuition Assistance program, two digit fiscal year, 2 digit month, and a four digit sequence number, followed by a two letter State abbreviation, i.e. T05110001KY. Control number format will be auto generated by iMARC.
- (4) DA Form 669. To ensure accurate record keeping, each ESO will initiate and maintain either a paper file or an electronic file in iMARC on each soldier that applies for and received ARNG FTA. The DA Form 669 (ACES Education Record) is available within the counseling tab of iMARC for such counseling, testing, and degree planning purposes. The ARNG ESC will assist applicants and ESO's with developing and maintaining these records. An electronic file is the preferred method.
- e. Payment Processing. ESOs are responsible for managing the allocation of ARNG FTA funds by ensuring each request for ARNG FTA is in the Information Management and Reporting Center (iMARC) System prior to committing, obligating, or dispersing any funds. Use of the iMARC system to administer, manage and report ARNG FTA information is a mandatory requirement. Course start date will determine which FY funds are obligated/disbursed (i.e. a course start date of 15 Sep 04 will

obligate funds from FY04. A course start date of 15 Oct 04 will obligate funds from FY05).

- (1) States will process FTA requests by paying the request (school) via a government authorized credit card or by submitting a copy of the completed DA Form 2171-ARNG and the school invoice to their respective USP&FO unless annual waiver/exemption for payment processing has been approved by NGB for a particular state or individual application.
- (2) Distance Learning (DL). ARNG will no longer utilize the DANTES Form 1562. All applications whether DL, online, classroom, etc must be submitted through the automated online ARNG FTA procedures.

# f. Recoupment.

- (1) Applicants are responsible for notifying their respective ARNG FTA manager if there are any changes in course status such as additions or withdrawals. The applicant is responsible to submit evidence that they completed the courses which were funded by FTA; i.e. by submitting grades reports, transcript, degree plan, or other means that indicates course completion.
- (2) ARNG Federal TA managers are responsible for verifying applicants' course completion status by receipt of a valid completion document. Applicants who don't complete the course will have their funding recouped and future ARNG FTA will be suspended, unless there are extenuating circumstances due to no fault of the applicant.
- (3) Commissioned officers who fail to complete the required 4 year service obligation will be required to reimburse the amount of FTA according to the following formula; Amount of TA divided by 48, multiplied by the remaining amount of obligation. (per U.S. code Title 10 chapter 101 section 2007) For example, an officer receives \$563 in ARNG FTA but departs 24 months before completion of the four-year obligation. \$563/48 = 11.73 X 24 = \$282 to be recouped.
- **6. DISTRIBUTION OF FTA FUNDS.** ARNG FTA funds are appropriated by US Congress and routed through DOD to NGB in the Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard (OMNG) appropriation, Budget Activity 4. It is further distributed from NGB to the states in MDEP VATA with AMSCO 433G32000. The Element of Resource for accounting purposes is "252C".
- a. Accountability. ESO's are to coordinate with their respective USP&FO to ensure funds are accurately accounted for and not used for other purposes (misappropriation of funds). AR 621-5 directs that MDEP VATA funds are "fenced" for tuition assistance

purposes only. ESOs will receive their funding information via the administration center in iMARC. States may request additional funding by submitting a request to the ARNG FTA (VATA) program manager at NGB, currently MAJ Schwickerath. States will receive funding for their FTA program based on historical and projected use as well as accountability in iMARC and the ODS 218 reports.

- b. Priority of Funds. ARNG Federal Tuition Assistance is a high priority of the Director of ARNG, LTG Schultz, to facilitate support for recruiting and retention efforts. However, these programs are subject to the availability of funds, and may not be guaranteed. Funding of applications will be based upon a "first come, first served" basis.
- 7. PURCHASE OF EDUCATION RELATED ITEMS AND EQUIPMENT. NGB also receives funding appropriated by US Congress and routed through DOD to NGB in the Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard (OMNG), Budget Activity 4. It is further distributed from NGB to the states in MDEP VACE with AMSCO 433G32.A0 which is for "administration" of ARNG's voluntary education programs. ARNG State ESO's or their representative may request MDEP VACE funds from NGB to purchase education related resources. These requests must be submitted to the NGB VACE program manager, currently MAJ Schwickerath. States may simply submit via email or memorandum indicating intent and short justification NLT August 1st each fiscal year. These funds may be used for such items as testing/counseling materials, briefing/marketing items, software, laptops, scanners, tabletop displays, conferences, workshops, banners and other resource items in the administration and marketing of the education programs. Education programs are the FTA program, GI Bill programs, Student Loan programs, Testing & Certification programs, eDISCOVER, and Student Guide to Success program.
- **8. EDUCATION SUPPORT AGENCIES.** The following education support programs are available to assist ARNG soldiers in their educational pursuits.
- a. ARNG Education Support Center (ESC). The ESC provides education counseling, degree planning, and outreach support. Persons eligible for these free services include ARNG service members, spouses, and federal employees of the ARNG. For more information on benefits / services go to: <a href="https://www.virtualarmory.com">www.virtualarmory.com</a>.
- (1) The ESC facilitates maximizing a person's transfer credit, military course credit, and other certifications/coursework into several degree plans of the applicant's choice.
- (2) The ESC is also tasked by NGB to provide oversight of the Student Guide to Success test preparation program.

- (3) The ESC is also tasked by NGB to provide oversight of the eDISCOVER counseling resource program. NGB purchased access privileges to the DISCOVER program for all State ARNG education offices. DISCOVER is a career and educational guidance software system.
- **b. DANTES.** Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support. NGB provides funds to DANTES for several centralized education services. For information on DANTES go to <a href="https://www.virtualarmory.com">www.virtualarmory.com</a> under the "education" tab or call the DANTES education hot line at 1-800-482-4533.
- (1) The ARNG via DANTES certified test centers, provides testing opportunities and certification exams to help soldiers gain additional college credit and credentials. Free CLEPs, DSSTs, or Excelsior tests for college credit are available for ARNG service members, spouses, and federal employees of the ARNG. Many other free testing opportunities are available for ARNG members, such as the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, ACT, SAT, GED, Praxis series and certification/licensing exams. ARNG members, their spouses, and federal employees of the ARNG may also go to their local National Testing Center to take free eCLEPs, which are the online version of the paper-based tests. Testing via eCLEPs provides instant score / certificate. Find your nearest eCLEP test center at http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch\_clep/searchCLEPTestCenter.jsp
- (2) DANTES is also the POC for foreign transcript analysis. See website at http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\_web/refpubs/ftr.htm
- (3) DANTES also hosts the Military Counselors Network (MCNET) which is an email distribution group for question and answer discussions about education related topics.
- (4) DANTES is also the POC for the Troops-to-Teachers and Spouse to Teachers programs as well as the facilitator for the World Wide Education Symposiums.
- c. SOCGuard. Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) is a consortium of over 1,700 colleges/universities and SOCGuard is a specific ARNG 3 member team funded by NGB. SOCGuard is the ARNG's primary liaison to the education community.
- (1) SOCGuard provides assistance with accreditation issues and education related mobilization issues. They also help facilitate workshops and campus visits for ARNG Education staff or recruiters.
- (2) SOCGuard provides student SOC network agreements that help "lock" in a specific program of study at a host school, so that military member that may PCS often, may continue to take classes at any SOC network school and ultimately receive degree from host school with transfer credits. Both ARNG member and spouse are eligible.

- (3) Information on current SOC programs is available on line at; <a href="www.virtualarmory.com">www.virtualarmory.com</a> under the "education" tab, by phone at;1-800-368-5622 or by Email at; <a href="mailto:socguard@aascu.org">socguard@aascu.org</a>.
- d. Military Transcript Services (AARTS). To maximize the use of FTA funds and to eliminate the duplication of credit, ESOs and counselors will encourage all soldiers who apply for ARNG FTA and have completed IADT, to obtain a copy of their military transcript through the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) available at <a href="http://aarts.army.mil/">http://aarts.army.mil/</a>.
- e. Civilian certification (COOL). The COOL website is a useful tool for Soldiers whose Army training may qualify them for civilian certification. More information can be found at <a href="https://www.cool.army.mil/">https://www.cool.army.mil/</a>.
- f. Smartforce. SMARTFORCE is an Army Computer Based Training (CBT) system that provides free access to over 1,500 Information Technology, Business Skills, and Interpersonal Skills courses and personal mentoring. Course are approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) to award college credit and they may count for promotion points. A copy of the Program Listing (course catalog) is available upon request via email to <a href="mailto:army@smartforce.com">army@smartforce.com</a> For further info and to enroll call 1-888-395-0014 x2620, or visit: <a href="https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/eLearning/smartforce/">https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/eLearning/smartforce/</a>

## 9. POINT OF CONTACTS (POCS).

a. State ARNG Education POCs. State ARNG Education program POCs will ensure that their respective POC information on the <a href="www.virtualarmory.com">www.virtualarmory.com</a> website's "Contacts" tab is accurate. As turn-over occurs at the State-level, the State must provide respective NGB program managers with POC updates to their programs to facilitate accuracy in information posting and dissemination. It is highly recommended that phone numbers for respective education/incentive offices in the State are not changed as part of staff turn-over; i.e. Tommy Tentpeng leave GI Bill Manager position and takes phone number with them to next position.

## b. National Guard Bureau program POCs.

(1) NGB administers an email distribution list for dissemination of Education and Incentives Operations Messages (EIOM). This distro list is in the ARNG RCAS Outlook global as "EIOM" and there are several subgroups of the EIOM listing such as #ESOs, #MGIB Managers, #Incentive Managers, #FTA Managers, # TCO, etc. These

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distribution groups may be used by the ARNG Education and Incentive community to facilitate communications.

- (2) POCs for this policy are respective program POCs listed below.
- (3) POCs for the NGB's ARNG Education Programs are:

### **ARNG Federal TA**

Policy, execution, and TA automation services; i.e. automated online Virtual Armory FTA requests, DANTES TA reports & iMARC TA tab POC.

Mr. Charles H. Martin (703)-607-9712, Email: <a href="mailto:charles.martin@ngb.army.mil">charles.martin@ngb.army.mil</a> Mr. Ruddie Cooper (703)-607-7405, Email: <a href="mailto:ruddie.cooper@ngb.army.mil">ruddie.cooper@ngb.army.mil</a>

#### GI Bill Programs

Policy, execution, and automation services (Reserve, Active, and Kicker). DMDC GI Bill Online site security manager and iMARC GI Bill tabs POC.

MSG John DeChane (703) 607-9754, Email: john.dechane@ngb.army.mil SSG Denise France (703) 607-9731, Email: denise.france@ngb.army.mil

#### Testing/Certification/Licensing Programs

ARNG testing (DANTES certified test sites), Army Personnel Testing (APT) programs, DANTES certification/licensing programs.

2LT Mikhaela Campo (703) 607-9740, Email: mikhaela,campo@ngb.army.mil Ms. Laura Greenfield (703) 607-9749, Email: laura.greenfield@ngb.army.mil

## Loan Repayment Programs & Incentives

Policy, execution, and automation services (SLRP, HPLR, SRIP). Budgeting for incentive programs-MDEP PNBE, iMARC access and enhancements.

MAJ Ron Lee (703) 607-9756. Email: ron.lee@ngb.army.mil

SFC Donald Gay (703) 607-7738, Email: donald.gay@ngb.army.mil

# Section Chief, Education & Incentives

Education contracts manager (COR), liaison with support agencies, ESOC, DOD panels, RC panels, projects, marketing (web sites / literature), \$\$ MDEPs program mgr VACE (Admin funding), VATA (TA funding), TRRS (ROTC funding), and VOPR (APT funding).

MAJ Ronald Schwickerath (703) 607-9766, Email: fonald schwickerath@ngb.army.mil

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Chief, Personnel Programs, Manpower and Resources Division

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